

**NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEARING/SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday, May 21, 2012**

**Newburyport High School
Meeting Convened at 7:04 PM**

**Room 118
Mayor Donna Holaday/Cheryl Sweeney Presided**

Present: Bruce Menin, Steve Cole, Cheryl Sweeney, Mayor Donna Holaday, Nick deKanter, Audrey McCarthy, Dan Koen

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Chairman Mayor Donna Holaday called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM. Mayor Holaday called for a roll call, which found all members present. All those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

READING OF MISSION STATEMENT:

Mayor Holaday read the Newburyport School Committee Mission Statement.

At this point Vice-Chairman took over chairmanship of the meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Motions

Warrants:

On a motion by Dan Koen and seconded by Mayor Holaday it was

VOTED: To approve, receive and forward to the City Auditor for payment the following warrant:
\$8,290.79

Motion Passed Unanimously

On a motion by Dan Koen and seconded by Bruce Menin it was

VOTED: To approve, receive and forward to the City Auditor for payment the following warrant:
\$254,873.17

Motion Passed Unanimously

Minutes

On a motion by Nick deKanter and seconded by Dan Koen it was

VOTED: To approve, receive and file the Regular School Committee Meeting minutes of Monday, May 7, 2012 as amended.

Motion Passed Unanimously

NHS STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT:

NHS Student Representative Julia Bradley reported on the following:

- The last day of classes for seniors is May 18th
- Graduation is upcoming – it is the culmination of Senior Week
- Scholarship Night is this Wednesday evening
- The Senior Prom is the 31st
- Senior exams are occurring now
- Senior portfolios are due

OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP – NOCK MIDDLE SCHOOL:

Background Information:

The Grade 8 field trip to Washington, DC is too lengthy of a trip for two students with special needs. Their teacher, Boyd Hancock, and the two student's parents will be taking them on a modified trip to Boston with one overnight involved with the parents staying with the students. Their itinerary includes visits to the USS Constitution, Freedom Trail, the State House, and Faneuil Hall to name a few stops along the way. They will leave Newburyport on Wednesday, May 30 and return on Thursday, May 31.

Motion:

On a motion by Mayor Holaday and seconded by Dan Koen it was

VOTED: To approve the overnight field trip to Boston, MA for two Grade 8 Middle School students with special needs, occurring on Wednesday, May 30 and culminating on Thursday, May 31.

Discussion:

Mayor Holaday thanked teacher Boyd Hancock for providing this trip for these two students.

Bruce Menin asked how this trip dovetails with curriculum. Ms. Hancock explained.

Cheryl Sweeney inquired as to how this trip was being funded. Ms. Hancock explained parents are paying for the hotel – there has been fundraising for the students. The teacher expenses are paid for.

Motion Passed Unanimously

STEM AD HOC COMMITTEE UPDATE:

Background Information:

The STEM Ad Hoc Committee met on March 6, 13, and 20. There were approximately 35 teachers, administrators, and community participants. The purpose of the committee was to recommend short term goals to Principal Mike Parent and Superintendent Marc Kerble.

Superintendent Dr. Marc Kerble explained the STEM Advisory Board met with the executive board of the Education Business Coalition. It was decided to put this under the leadership of Greg Whalen from the Education Business Coalition at the beginning stages.

Discussion:

Mayor Holaday inquired regarding place based education – wouldn't it make sense to have them be part of this group. Dr. Kerble explained.

Nick deKanter stated he disagreed with that approach.

Mayor Holaday said this was just a linkage – what does Dr. Kerble hope to accomplish. Dr. Kerble talked about how to promote students in to the STEM pipeline – a K-12 STEM program in the engineering area.

Nick deKanter said the State hopes to promote this – how many students are going into this area.

Bruce Menin inquired if membership in STEM will go beyond the Business Coalition. Dr. Kerble said yes – people who wanted to be on board originally may participate.

Angela Bik stated that as people spread the word, that's how we will get more people involved.

Bruce Menin said he would like to see limitations put on people who would like to be involved.

Dr. Kerble said this is a way to broaden our network system.

Mayor Holaday said she recommended partnering with higher education closer to home.

Steve Cole commented on mentoring. He said we need to do more to teach the core sciences.

990 HOURS – TIME ON LEARNING AT NHS UPDATE:

Background Information:

Assistant Superintendent Deirdre Farrell and High School Principal Mike Parent, have been working to obtain minutes for time on learning (to meet the 990 requirement) by looking at lunch schedules, 12:17 early dismissals on release days, and options available during mid-term and finals.

Ms. Farrell said she and Principal Parent met to see where they were to date. They discussed two options

- Minutes in between lunches
- 12:17 release

They brainstormed where else we can get minutes. They presented to faculty members. Lunch time is robbing Peter to pay Paul – it is not going to work. 12:17 – 6.75 hours toward time on learning – this comes with associated costs. Testing options were discussed.

Principal Parent was asked to write options up, to petition the State, to see if some of these count towards 990.

Principal Parent said 20 minutes has been added to each day. Ms. Farrell said 20 minutes adds 60 hours in an academic school year – this is huge.

Principal Parent explained that getting to 990 hours – students would have to be fully scheduled – no study's. Study's now have 10 to 12 students rather than 25. They are at an impasse – solutions are out there, but they come at a cost. Class projects – collecting data on how many hours students work on their projects.

Discussion:

Dan Koen said if 20 minutes gives us 60 hours – would 5 more minutes a day do it? Principal Parent said getting 20 minutes on the part of the staff was in good faith.

Nick deKanter said lets have teachers supervising study halls teach a class. Principal Parent said teachers are contracted to teach 5 classes – this would be 6 classes – it is a contractual issue.

Dr. Kerble questioned directed studies. Principal Parent explained the downside of directed studies – it is a scheduling nightmare.

Nick deKanter said we expect students, when they leave, to have certain life skills. If we were able to create a seminar – this would be extra hours that would add time. Principal Parent said we are moving towards flux schedule. We are already committed to a schedule for next year – we have committed staff. We are now calling students in to resolve conflicts.

Nick deKanter said that is why he is suggesting additional time. Principal Parent said we cannot mandate that – he hopes that as we move towards flux schedule we can move towards this.

Ms. Farrell said we will write up our suggestions and ask the State to count them as time on learning.

Nick deKanter asked what is Plan B? Principal Parent said there is no Plan B.

Ms. Farrell said we hope to show the State student projects and hope they will count these as some time on learning – if the State agrees with our calculations – we are left with 7.2 hours needed.

Principal Parent said teachers need time to grade exams and get them in to X2.

Audrey McCarthy said 990 is going to cost us more money. Perhaps we can tap in to Community Colleges to come in on half days to offer some type of classes.

Ms. Farrell said we are asking the State what else we can possibly do.

Bruce Menin asked how many families at the high school would be affected by early release days. Bring in people to conduct seminars on early release days.

Dan Koen asked how many FTE's would it take to fill those studies with electives. Principal Parent said somewhere around 5.

Dr. Kerble thanked the Committee for their ideas. The Committee thanked Principal Parent.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Dr. Ralph Orlando, 4 Wm. Hall DR. CONCERN: There are three things of concern at NHS; 990 hours, sciences and substance abuse. He challenged the Committee to have summer schools, have more School Committee meetings, and invite the public to discuss 990. He commented on the STEM initiative.

Karen Conway, 23 Columbus Ave. CONCERN: The STEM initiative needs to be part of a bigger discussion. She asked how far short are we on 990, and commented on early release days – we must look carefully at these.

NEW EDUCATOR EVALUATION SYSTEM:

Dr. Kerble stated that Bruce Menin and he presented this to the Committee before. Sixteen or seventeen people have been working on this closely together. We were trained on interest based bargaining. This has paid off. There is a rubric that governs how we are evaluated and they are all connected. What's really proficient – teachers were reviewed and came up with only three issues. We have to finish negotiating and this will take us right up until September. We all feel that this can be negotiated successfully.

Ms. Farrell said we are talking about 990, teacher evaluation and time to get things done.

Dr. Kerble stated that release days are very important.

Cheryl Sweeney said this is a growth tool – time is of the utmost. Teachers are all on board with this. Issues are being talked about – the outcome is to improve student achievement.

Bruce Menin said we have a lot of work to do, but we need to get this started. There is room for community voice. There is no downside to this – we are working collaboratively.

MSBA UPDATE:

Assistant Superintendent Farrell said there has been little activity from MSBA. They are reviewing things.

There will be propay training next week. The mayor's meeting went well. The coffees are continuing.

Mayor Holaday said the tax rate that was stated in the newspaper was wrong. Taxes will not go up after the vote.

APPOINTMENT TO THE GLEC BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Dr. Kerble said DESE wants greater oversight of Collaboratives. Dr. Kerble served on the board this year and was the Chair of the Personnel Committee. He also chaired the search for a new Executive Director. Dr.

Kerble stated would be more than happy to pass this baton. Steve Cole has submitted a letter asking to be appointed to the GLEC Board of Directors. Dr. Kerble stated that he feels Mr. Cole would be a perfect fit.

Motion

On a motion by Mayor Holaday and seconded by Dan Koen it was

VOTED: To appoint Steve Cole to the GLEC Board of Directors.

Motion passed Unanimously

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Cheryl Sweeney reported on the 2012 Ed Award.

Joint Ed – Audrey McCarthy said they will meet in June.

Superintendent's Goals – Mayor Holaday said there is nothing to report at present.

Policy - Bruce Menin said they have been working on the revised Mission Statement. Policies need updating.

Finance – Steve Cole said they have been discussing 990 options and related costs.

Communications – Nick deKanter said they have discussed a draft of a letter to the Daily News regarding the initiatives on the ballot June 5th. The City Council will be doing something as well.

EBC – Nick deKanter said they discussed STEM, NEF and EBC, the Ed Award and the bridge builder award.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Dr. Kerble reported on the following:

- Congratulations to Taylor Abatiell who was accepted to the 2012 Art All State taking place on June 1 & 2 at the Worcester Art Museum.
- Senior Week activities:
 - Wednesday, May 23, 7:00 PM, Senior Scholarship Night, NHS Auditorium.
 - Monday, May 28, Vespers Ceremony, 7:00 PM, NHS Auditorium
 - Tuesday, May 29, Senior Banquet @ The Village Smokehouse, Lowell
 - Wednesday, May 30, Ivy Day, 9:00 AM, Front Steps of NHS
 - Wednesday, May 30, 5:30 M, Class Trip to Giggles and LaserQuest

- Thursday, May 31, 5:30 PM, Senior Promenade, Front Steps of NHS
 - Thursday, May 31, 6:15 PM, Senior Prom buses depart to Atkinson CC
- Friday, June 1, 12:30 PM, Senior Singout, NHS Auditorium
- Sunday, June 3, 1:00 PM, Graduation, NHS World War Memorial Stadium
 - Sunday, June 3 – Monday, June 4, Senior Celebration
- District Goals – the Committee received a draft from Dr. Kerble today.

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:

Assistant Superintendent Farrell reported on

- School Choice – we opened grade 9 – 10 slots
- No one has applied for the \$13,000 slots

Assistant Superintendent Angela Bik reported on

- Data training – K-5 responsive classroom
- Offering instruction
- Offering building math practices K-2
- Collaborative
- Aligning instruction
- DSA
- Summer Institutes
- Summer Curriculum work
- Working on Nov. 6 professional development – secured 35 different offerings

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion

On a motion by Bruce Menin and seconded by Mayor Holaday it was

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting at 8:45 PM.

Motion Passed Unanimously